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HEADQUARTERS
 UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
 APO SAN FRANCISCO 96222
 Office of Information



MACOI

29 March 1973

SUBJECT: After Action Report

Commander in Chief, Pacific
 Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii
 FPO San Francisco 96010
 ATTN: History (MACV)

Forwarded as inclosure (1) is the After Action Report for the
 MACV Office of Information to include American Forces Vietnam
 Network, Command Information Division and Public Information
 Division.

JERE K. FORBUS
 Major, U.S. Army
 Information Officer

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**AFTER ACTION REPORT
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM**

SECTION I: Significant Organizational Activities (Detailed report of AFVN, CID and PID are at TABS A, B and C respectively)

A. Withdrawal Phase.

(1) **Personnel.** The significant personnel change (excepting those outlined in TABS A through C) was the transfer of the Deputy CINFO to the U.S. Delegation, Four Party Joint Military Commission.

(2) **Equipment retrograde/turn-over.** None.

(3) **Operations.** Press accreditation mission terminated on X + 1.

All other operations of MACOI continued on a level consistent with the existing demand for information.

(4) **Logistics.** Logistical support requirements lessened commensurately with operations.

(5) **Transfer of functions and reporting.** None.

(6) **Transfer of real property.** None (except as reported at TAB A).

B. Roll-up Phase.

(1) **Personnel.** No remarkable personnel changes evolved.

(2) **Equipment retrograde/turn-over.** Office equipment was transferred to DAO at X + 55.

(3) **Operations.** Public Information Division assumed residual Command Information Division mission. Otherwise, PID and AFVN continued to meet their requirements.

(4) **Logistics.** Transportation became an occasional problem, but never one that restricted the accomplishment of the mission.

(5) **Transfer of functions and reporting.** The information function was transferred to DAO at X + 60.

(6) Transfer of Real Property. None (except as reported at TAB A).

SECTION 2: Chief of Information Observations and Recommendations.

A. Personnel. Owing to the option to transfer officers previously devoted to accreditation and command information and the reduction of public information missions (termination of daily press briefings and daily press communiques), MACOI was sufficiently staffed to meet the needs of providing information to the public media. The minimum essential staff required to operate AFVN facilities imposed austere working conditions during the 60 day period.

B. Operations. The division of interest shown by the media in regard to MACV and JMC activities worked to lessen the public information requirement for MACOI. In addition, the close working relationship between MACOI and JMCPAO and the physical co-locating of the two offices allowed for efficient exchange of information. It should be noted that, more often than not, public interest may increase as an operation approaches its end. It is essential to provide for sufficient public affairs capability for responding to the vagaries of media interest.

C. Guidance. Plans and implementation guidance was fully sufficient.

AFTER ACTION REPORT (AFVN)

SECTION I. Significant Organizational Activities.

A. Withdrawal Phase.

(1) Operations. Only minor reductions were made in broadcasting services at the Key Station, Saigon, and none at the detachments between X day and the deactivation of each location. On X plus 15, AFVN Saigon TV broadcast its last, live, half-hour evening newscast, reducing service to filmed programs only. The Can Tho detachment ceased rebroadcasting the Saigon FM and TV programs to the Delta Region on X plus 35. The Da Nang detachment terminated TV broadcasts on X plus 36 and radio on X plus 39. The Pleiku detachment stopped TV broadcasting on X plus 42 and FM and radio service on X plus 45. At the request of General Healey coordination is being made to continue Saigon program feeds to the FM transmitter and have it operated until X plus 64 by the RVN Ministry of Information personnel who will receive the equipment on X plus 46. At Nha Trang, radio and TV programs stopped on X plus 44.

(2) Personnel. AFVN had 58 military and 23 local national personnel on the roster on X day. Personnel were retained until they were no longer needed for operations and retrograde tasks. By X plus 45, five Army, two Navy and one local national personnel had departed. Personnel stationed in Saigon were required to move into the Brink BOQ when the Walling BEQ was closed on X plus 37. Detachment personnel came to Saigon for processing and CONUS transportation after their operations ceased and their equipment was retrograded or turned over to RVN agencies or property disposal.

(3) Equipment retrograde/turnover.

(a) Several weeks prior to X day, all equipment had been surveyed and economically retrogradable equipment had been identified. Lists of retrogradable equipment had been identified. Lists of retrogradable equipment were compiled by location and furnished to CINCPAC Public Affairs Office (PAO) for determination of final disposition. CINCPAC PAO allocated the equipment among requesting PACOM AFRTS stations, AFRTS-Los Angeles, and the Television-Audio Support Agency, Sacramento Army Depot, Sacramento, California. AFVN engineers deinstalled

and disassembled the equipment and readied it for packing and shipment. AFVN obtained packing and crating services from Vinnell Corporation, and shipped the equipment as it became available. At Pleiku, packing services were obtained from Federal Electric Company, which at the time was packing another organization's property next to the AFVN site. In order to make equipment available for retrograde as early as possible, redundant and nice-to-have equipment was removed from service early. Supply stocks were steadily reduced by shipping equipment with spare parts kits. The lines of supply items retained were those necessary to support operations until closure and those needed to support FM operations under the Defense Attache Office after X plus 56. By X plus 45, approximately 80% of the retrogradable equipment had been packed and shipped from Saigon and the detachments.

(b) Several weeks before X day, AFVN requested and obtained disposition and destruction instructions for all program materials. Within a few days after X day, all excess films had been crated. When the Office of the Secretary of Defense rendered the final decision that TV broadcasting would terminate, seasonal and filler films were crated and shipped by X plus 45. Non-accountable films were destroyed by burning, as required by AFRTS-DP-1 manual. Prior to X day, the radio record library was inventoried for disposition. On X plus 43 and X plus 44, radio programs and other records not identified for retrograde were turned over to the property disposal contractor at Long Binh Post and were destroyed by burning, in accordance with AFRTS-DP-1 and disposition instructions from AFRTS Los Angeles.

(c) Equipment and supplies which were not economically retrogradable, or which were not required elsewhere in the AFRTS system, were turned over to broadcasting activities of the RVN State Commission for Information. Major items of equipment disposed of in this manner, and supporting supplies, were TV transmitters at Saigon, Da Nang, and Pleiku, two TV translators from Can Tho, and three small transmitter antenna towers.

(4) Logistics. During the first few days following X day, all open requisitions were reviewed for necessity to support operations until closure. Requisitions for parts not needed to sustain operations beyond 60 days were cancelled where possible. Long lead time items nearly ready for delivery were diverted to the recipients of the end items for which the parts were procured. Requisitions for parts for the Saigon FM radio equipment, which will continue operating after X plus 60, were kept open.

(5) **Transfer of Function and Reporting.** On X plus 40 the Secretary of Defense authorized an automated FM radio station for Saigon, to be operated by the Defense Attache Office, U. S. Embassy, for DOD personnel. Studios, office, and maintenance areas in the main building and a separate supply area were designated and equipped by X plus 45. Four U. S. and seven local national spaces were authorized and recruiting began by X plus 42. The local national spaces, except for an Administrative Specialist, were filled by personnel currently employed by AFVN.

(6) **Transfer Real Property.** By early January 1973, all real property had been identified for eventual disposition. The Key Station Compound (Saigon) including power generators, and the Cat Lo AM transmitters were signed over to the U.S. Embassy on 10 November 1972 and X plus 45 respectively. The TV transmitter and site at Da Nang were signed over to the RVN State Commission for Information on X plus 43. The other detachments were tenants on their host installations, and there was no necessity for AFVN to arrange real property transfers.

(b) **Roll-up Phase.**

(1) **Operations.** TV and radio broadcasting from the Saigon Key Station is expected to continue until midnight on X plus 53. After that date AFVN will cease operations as a division of MACOI, MACV. Administrative, engineering and supply functions are expected to continue until X plus 56 in order to complete retrograde of the last items of equipment and personnel. The FM radio station is scheduled to begin broadcasting as a division of the Office of Information, Defense Attache Office, U. S. Embassy, as soon as U.S. national personnel can be hired and placed, under the guidance of the Officer in Charge, AFVN, until X plus 56. In the event U.S. personnel are not in place by that date, local national employees can operate the station in fully automated, music mode only, without hourly newscasts, which require US personnel.

Note - US personnel did take over - there was no disruption in newscasts

(2) **Personnel.** Detachment personnel came to Saigon for out-processing and CONUS transportation when their retrograde activities were completed. These personnel are scheduled to depart as a unit on X plus 57. Local national personnel will be terminated on X plus 51, except those who will remain to operate the FM station under DAO.

(3) **Equipment retrograde/turnover.** Only a limited amount of equipment at the Key Station and its associated transmitter site at Cat Lo

remained after X plus 45. This equipment is scheduled to be dismantled, packed and shipped as soon as possible following termination of TV and AM radio broadcasts at midnight of X plus 53. Radio and TV program materials kept for the final days of use are scheduled to be packed and shipped by X plus 56. The studio and transmitter equipment and program materials for the FM station will be turned over to the Defense Attache Office on or before X plus 56.

(4) Logistics. The supply function for the FM station is scheduled to be turned over to DAO not later than X plus 56. A local national supply specialist currently employed by AFVN will remain and can perform all supply functions. Sufficient spare parts for continuing operations until new requisitions can be opened are on hand.

(5) Transfer of Functions and Reporting. The FM portion of AFVN will become the responsibility of DAO on or before X plus 56.

(6) Transfer Real Property. No real property remains on AFVN books to transfer after X plus 45.

SECTION II. Officer-in-Charge Comments.

A. **Withdrawal Phase.** The original schedule for terminating AFVN broadcast services, as provided in OPLAN J215, was extended several times at the request of higher headquarters. However, these extensions presented no significant problems, due to the flexibility and provision of alternative methods of accomplishing both the mission and withdrawal that were later incorporated into implementing plans and actions.

B. **Roll-up Phase.** Only a minor problem is anticipated for the future, barring unforeseen exigencies of the overall withdrawal of U.S. forces. This problem is the time-consuming progress of hiring qualified U.S. civilian personnel to operate the FM station. Until U.S. personnel are in place to manage the station and provide hourly newscasts, local national personnel must operate the station only in an automated music mode. The AFVN staff is presently preparing Standard Operating Procedures, programming guides, and engineering drawings of the station layout and wiring to guide the new station manager, engineer and announcers. This guidance will assist them throughout their tenure, whether or not there is an overlap with present AFVN personnel.

AFTER ACTION REPORT
COMMAND INFORMATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

1. GENERAL. The following report is submitted concerning the closedown of CID.

a. SECTION 1. Significant Organizational Activities. The closedown of the CID was accomplished with in the withdrawal phase (X to X + 30). Several military personnel were initially deployed to CONUS in conjunction with the President's announced troop redeployment schedules prior to X day. The remaining two Non-Commissioned officers were transferred to USSAG at NKP Thailand. Civilian personnel were transferred to DAO organizations into positions utilizing their skills. Upon closure of CID the OIC was assigned to PID to assist in that operation and to continue as PAO for Operation Homecoming. IBM composing machines and related equipment were turned in to supply channels and subsequently transferred to DAO. Photo equipment (cameras, etc.) were transferred to USSAG IO at NKP. Non-standard photo darkroom equipment was transferred to DAO. Office equipment was turned into supply channels for normal disposition. The final major operation was publication of the final issue of the MACV OBSERVER and the preparation of awards and certificates. The final OBSERVER was published and distributed by X + 10. The CID Composing Section also provided considerable assistance in the preparation of awards and reports for other staff activities, until X - 25 at which time the composing machine equipment was transferred. No logistics operations apply to CID other than equipment turn in mentioned previously. No functions have been transferred to other agencies or activities. No real property was transferred. Correspondence files were turned in through AG publications channels. Photographic files, copies of unit publications and OBSERVER file copies were dispatched to the U.S. Army Historical Research Collection Center at Carlisle Barracks.

b. SECTION 2. Officer in Charge Observation and Recommendations. There was sufficient time to effect an orderly closedown of CID operations. Instructions for the disposition and transfer of equipment were adequate and properly supported by the headquarters. Some confusion resulted in personnel transfers, both military and civilian, due to the initial delay in the establishment of USSAG and the concurrent operation of Saigon and DAO Civilian Personnel Offices, however these delays were not of serious duration and were resolved in a minimum of time once lines of communication became known.

2. Recommendations: None.

PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION

SECTION I. Significant Organizational Activities.

A. Withdrawal Phase.

(1) On X day, the Command Spokesman gave his last daily briefing at the RVN National Press Center and distributed the last daily MACV Communique. On X + 1, the Command Spokesman was reassigned to the American Delegation to the Joint Military Commission, leaving one briefing officer in the division. During the second week in February, the briefing officer was transferred to USSAG NKP. To maintain the briefing officer function, the division was augmented by the Chief, Information Advisory and Accreditation Division, who was in the process of closing out his operations. On X + 35, this augmentation ended with his transfer to CHINFO. On the same day, the division was augmented in the briefing officer function by the Chief, Command Information Division, who was in the process of closing out his operations. On X + 21, two of the division's four local national office employees were transferred to jobs in the Defense Attache's Office, Civilian Personnel Office. Arrangements were made for transfer on X + 60 of one employee to DAO Public Affairs Office, and for termination, at her request, on X + 58 of the remaining employee. At X + 45, the USARV IO (O-5) and his E-5 reported to PID and assisted in Operation Homecoming and Stars & Stripes distribution. Manning of the division was three O-5's, one E-6, one E-5, one VGS 5/3, and one VGS-2/7.

(2) Equipment retrograde/turn in: On X + 39, all equipment required for USSAG PAO operations at NKP was shipped, including one mimeograph machine. All remaining equipment will be turned over to DAO PAO on X + 60.

(3) Operations. On X+1, operations were downgraded to producing memos to correspondents as required to announce troop withdrawals, and continuing to provide a limited distribution news service summaries, and continuing to function as required by CHINFO MACV for Operation Homecoming.

(4) Logistics. Logistics requirements continued to be met on an as needed basis with no difficulties.

(5) **Transfer of Function and Reporting.** Since the purpose of this operation is to terminate itself, and since reports after the termination will no longer be required, no effort was made to transfer function or reporting of the division. However, assistance in setting up the new functions and reporting of USSAG PAO in NKP was given on an as needed basis.

(6) **Transfer of Real Property.** No real property was transferred during this period, but complete plans were coordinated with DAO for their takeover of all office space and equipment.

B. Roll-up Phase.

(1) All PID roll-up phase activities were completed as planned and amended.

SECTION II. Chief Public Information Division Comments. No major problem areas have occurred in the Public Information Division during Operation Countdown.

29 March 1973

0730 Staff Meeting Summary

1. Col. Detherow:

a. At DRV request, we confirmed FPJMC Delegation redeployment plans.

b. POW support aircraft departed TSN 0705 (35 min late). No problem making up time. Delay apparently due to DRV manifest glitches causing delay at Davis Sta.

c. Aircraft due off for Clark from Hanoi at 1700H (did not state, but believe last aircraft). Need check with Ops/Plans on this, or check schedule in message.

d. Mil-Affairs sub commission agreed no requirement for observation of FPJMC Delegation Departures.

e. MACV - Need to check wrds on US redeployment with FPJMC Ops/Plans due to 159 Marine Guards. FPJMC will simply inform other delegations, tomorrow, that all US forces have redeployed. Do not expect they will provide numbers.

2. POW

a. Delay of support aircraft.

b. Expect there might be more PRG-held prisoners who may surface later. (FYI only)

3. All RACS except DaNang closed out. DaNang at noon, today.

JMT's rolling up.

4. Staff Photo tomorrow in front of Hq.

5. Gen. Woodward wants to see Mr. Conlon when he has a chance.

6. Get word out on processing schedule.



DONALD J. PETERSON
LTC, USAF
Chief, Public Affairs Office